



**City of Kingston
Conservation Advisory Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-1682 x. 7339**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes
City Hall Conference Room 1
June 9, 2010**

Roll Call: 6:40 pm

In attendance:

Board Members:

Julie Noble
Felipa Gaudet
Valeria Gheorghiu
Gregg Swanzey
Allison Taylor
Sophie Dolamore (pending)

Guests:

Casey Schwartz
Jennifer Schwartz-Berky
Myan Melendez
Arthur Zaczekiewicz- Kingston Land Trust
Tom Hoffay – Alderman Ward 2

Public Comment (5 minutes): There was no public comment

Approval of Minutes (5 minutes)
Approval May Meeting minutes

Old Business

1. Bard Research Presentation (45 Min)

a. Guest: Jennifer Schwartz-Berky -

- i. Shared personal background as land use planner and background of course at Bard – Cities and Sustainability - Environmental, Social – measure where possible and provide recommendations.
- ii. Next course: Kingston Urban Practicum (EUS 304)
- iii. Myan shared her group's solid waste presentation including statistics about the amount of solid waste and methane that is produced by each person in the US and Kingston's trash to recycling ratio. Advertising, education, reinforce recycling laws, trash can availability were shared as solutions. She also shared:
 1. information about how recycled materials are used.
 2. recycling statistics specific to Kingston as compared with national averages.
 3. initiatives by San Francisco, including recycling and composting receptacles at special events.
- iv. Myan explained the following recommendations by her group: Recycle Bank, Big Belly Solar Compactors, composting (economic possibilities, possibilities of placing bins at schools, grocery stores, restaurants).
- v. Group 2 – Methods of Energy Demand –
 1. Reduce demand based upon time of day usage (peak versus off peak).
 2. Energy allocation for buildings – lighting being the highest.

3. Recommended 'wedges' – a way of measuring impacts of specific emissions reduction measures.
 4. Recommended a tracking system, revolving fund (an initial fund that is created that is used for energy efficiency and is replenished with the money saved), having a city employee become LEED certified.
 5. Solar Thermal Roadmap was shared – the most affordable, acceptable.
 6. Valeria mentioned Hudson Valley Solar Cooperative.
 7. Gregg recommended making a list for the quickest paybacks on specific renewable energy/ energy efficiency idea.
 8. The group recommended getting the information out during Kingston's special recreational events.
 9. Jennifer shared information specific to wind turbines related to the areas surrounding Kingston
- vi. Jennifer share about her Group – Land Use (Gregg's group)
1. As density increases, greenhouse gasses are reduced.
 2. Jennifer explained 'Form based codes' – increasing density through planning and decreasing sprawl increases energy efficiency.
 3. Food miles – expanding Farmer's Markets to winter markets. Kingston supporting more than one Farmer's Market.
 4. She shared negotiating urban space for community gardens, agriculture.
 5. Jennifer said that her next class will focus on zoning laws specific to agriculture.
 6. Jennifer shared the benefits of urban trees – inventory, maintenance and planting of trees. A new inventory needs to be done. She strongly recommends that we consider this and work on this initiative.
 7. Benefits of complete streets – support urban agriculture, urban forestry and increase population density. She shared that we must educate the public through events regarding the cost to benefit ratio.
 8. Gregg shared that the Complete Streets project released guidelines. He also shared concerns about wires.
- vii. By the end of the summer, Jennifer will give to the CAC a clear list of recommendations and resources. She will come back to a September meeting with her students from her summer course

b. Discussion about Ning site transfer

- i. Ning website – create new groups – calendar function that will automatically remind people of events, includes options for photos, forum, groups, links -
 1. students used as forum for discussions – collaborating
- ii. Gregg shared that he observed that through some of the discussions, it was evident that the students were communicating outside of class and wondered if they had a preference – Ning versus other forms of communication – Jennifer shared that students were in contact while on campus as well. Jennifer shared that more specific discussions could be made on the Ning site.
- iii. Ning mini – \$19.95/yr. – up to 150 members; \$199.95/yr – unlimited – can be linked to the CAC website
 1. Possibilities that were discussed were using the CAC site as a forum for this type of communication.
 2. Facebook site was discussed as a possibility.
- iv. Gregg shared the value of Ning in regard to using the information gathered by the Bard students.
- v. Concerns about the cost were mentioned. The CAC will explore free options for now. Jennifer will continue to maintain the Ning site for now and we'll revisit this in future.

2. Climate Smart Pledge –

- a. Gregg shared concerns about having public meeting without a clear plan and capacity for moving forward.
- b. Valeria shared concerns that we told the community members at the last meeting that we would have another meeting in 60 days.
- c. Gregg shared that he wanted to have consensus regarding our next steps.
- d. Julie also shared concerns that we have not followed up.
- e. Suggestions for follow-up: Julie will e-mail participants - Share Climate Action Analyst holdup. Briefly summarize Bard students' research and Ning site. Inquire about how their community outreach going. Schedule the next two meetings – one in August for touching base and one in September for sharing Bard research findings specific to each group. After the second meeting, the groups should be more self-directed, as they will have a more defined focus for their work.
- f. Decision made to discuss this at July meeting, rather than have a special meeting in between the regularly scheduled June and July meetings
- g. Climate Analyst/ SHV meeting/NYSERDA update –
 - i. Sustainable Hudson Valley Meeting about climate analyst position between three municipalities – none have received funding yet.
 - ii. Meredith Neirenberg, NYSERDA is working on a Kingston Baseline Implementation Report, using data that was gathered from the 2007 Wendell Energy Study

3. Website update –

- a. Felipa shared that the website framework has been created and is ready for information to be inserted within the framework. Discussed where Felipa can access some information and photographs that would enhance the imagery on the site. Needed from others are:
 - i. Bios and photos
 - ii. History of CAC – Julie will provide
- b. Facebook page – Felipa shared some interesting and successful elements of Facebook pages.
 - i. Updated frequently with various types of information.
 - ii. Include mention of upcoming meetings.
 - iii. Include links to news articles that relate in some manner to the overall purpose of the organization. These stories can be public interest stories, current events, etc.
 - iv. Include polls about current events.
 - v. Include photos/videos of events. We discussed posting the video of the first public meeting for the Climate Smart Communities and Green Jobs Pledge, as well as photographs from the future meetings, etc.
 - vi. Sophie is starting the Facebook page and is interested in maintaining it. Felipa will assist as needed with its creation/maintenance.

Announcements/Communications (10 minutes): Next regular Monthly Board Meeting: July 14, 2010

Reports (25 minutes) (May and June)

1. EMC reports – Gregg shared plan for CAC roundtable – last Wednesday of June at 6:30-8:30 at the SUNY Ulster lounge – Creek Week –great place for CACs to come together.
2. Planning Board Meeting Reports – June 14th – 6:00
3. General Government/Auditing/Public Safety Committee Reports – Gregg went to the last meeting and briefly updated the members regarding the CACs work.
4. Laws and Rules Meeting, Cats agenda, update – During the public meeting, Alison shared that members of Animal Kind came to the meeting to share their trap, neuter, release program with the city. The CAC recommendations were well received by the committee.
5. Assign dates for rest of 2010 Planning board, Gen. Gov't meetings - Doodle poll will be formed to divide the future General Government/Auditing/Public Safety Committee and Planning Board meetings

Adjournment: 9:10 pm